Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 08 Jan 2022 until 23:59 on Sunday 09 Jan 2022

Forecast Issued on Saturday 08 Jan 2022 at 02:41

Confidence: High for conditions swinging between cold and mild over the next few days and also for drier, more settled conditions towards the middle of next week. Lower for details of precipitation from Sunday.

Headline for Saturday 08 Jan 2022: Cold and windy with further snow, sleet and rain. Some afternoon brightness too.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 08 Jan 2022

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Medium Likelihood
Thunderstorms Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Medium Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light snow showers	Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability					
90%	90%	40%	50%	80%	80%

Forecast for Saturday 08 Jan 2022

Weather: Overcast start with periods of occasionally heavy rain, wintry across very highest peaks. Outbreaks turning patchy mid to late morning, with the afternoon bringing drier, brighter spells as well as a return to cold air and an increasing threat of snow showers, these falling as rain below around 300m and becoming frequent through evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 30% through the middle of the day, otherwise very little chance.

Visibility: Very variable through the day. Cloud will shroud most slopes above 300-400m through morning with rain turning lower slopes hazy. This cloud lifts and breaks by late morning to give some brief cloud free periods on the summits, but conditions will gradually deteriorate as snow showers develop, these bringing whiteout conditions on highest ground as well as cloud often down to 300m again. Some limited shelter afforded to east facing slopes.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Saturday 08 Jan 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	42/50 S	36/44 SW	32/40 W	30/39 W	30/39 W	33/43 W	33/43 W
600	36/48 S	30/41 SW	26/37 W	25/35 W	24/34 W	27/38 W	27/39 W
300	9/30 S	12/32 W	13/30 W	12/29 W	10/27 W	13/31 W	13/31 W
Valley	8/27 S	14/32 SW	12/27 W	12/27 W	10/25 W	13/28 W	14/30 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-7	3/-4	0/-8	-2/-10	-2/-11	-2/-12	-3/-12
600	2/-6	4/-2	2/-4	1/-6	0/-7	-0/-8	-0/-8
300	2/-1	6/2	5/1	3/-1	2/-2	2/-3	2/-3
Valley	4/2	8/5	7/4	6/2	5/1	5/1	5/0
Freezing Level*	1300m	1300m	900m	700m	600m	600m	500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling bitterly cold in the strong winds with frequent precipitation. Afternoon cloud breaks unreliable. The odd rumble of thunder is possible later in the day.

Forecast for Sunday 09 Jan 2022

Weather: Another cold, windy day with showers, these falling as snow above 400m or so through morning. Chance of a more organised spell of rain, sleet and snow through the middle of the day with snow becoming confined to 600m and above here. Increasingly dry from sunset with some clearer spells into the evening.

Maximum wind: West 25-30mph, becoming 10-15mph by evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10%.

Visibility: Cloud, rain and snow will severely limit visibility away from lower slopes with cloud remaining largely extensive above around 400m but with westerly winds, some eastern Fells will see the best of any shelter.

Temperature: **Valleys:** 3 or 4 Celsius rising to 7 or 8.
At 800m: Minus 1 or 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: 500m rising to 800m by late morning.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Friday 7 January. Location: Helvellyn summit At 12:10 Full report; Once again, this report comes with a health warning in that showers are forecast early Saturday morning followed by heavy rain with it also turning milder, so walkers out on Saturday may encounter less snow at lower elevations but should expect and be prepared to encounter more snow at higher altitude than experienced and described here. Fresh snow/sleet had fallen overnight to higher valleys level and this was combined with showers during the day. There was a daytime thaw below 300m. Snow depth rises with height with the amount encountered varying considerably from nothing on windswept and exposed areas, such as large parts of the summit plateau, to drifts able to swallow a 55cm ice axe – although such depth is the exception. The snowpack is mostly soft powder; however, mainly above 500m, there are occasional patches of weight baring harder snow which, especially on steeper ground, could be very dangerous to those without the means (ie an ice axe) to immediately stop a slide. Especially above 700m, windswept areas and paths devoid of snow were covered in ice. If the wind drops or changes direction, such ground could be hidden beneath fresh snow/spindrift. Although the snowpack is mostly soft, cornices have started to develop over steep north and east facing slopes so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. The coldest daytime summit windchill (what the temperature feels like) this winter season was recorded at midday of minus 15.3 degrees accompanied with occasional blasts of biting hail and spindrift. Thus full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment - including torch, map & compass and the ability to use them in limited visibility (especially in cloud and when the snow obscures landmarks) are all essential for anyone venturing out onto the high fells. Owing to the amount of biting spindrift/hail being blown about, goggles are also highly recommended. Given the amount of ice on paths and rocks, microspikes and walking poles are helpful to stay upright. Exposed routes, such as Striding and Swirral edges, are in winter condition (albeit currently with largely soft snow) and should only be attempted by those experienced in, and equipped for, winter mountaineering. Similarly, crampons and ice axe are essential for anyone attempting, or traversing, steep slopes owing to the occasional patches of harder snow and ice. Climbers. Despite the amount of ice on windswept ground, the gullies are full of soft snow with climbers' reporting unfrozen ground beneath. Please do not attempt climbs not in condition in order to avoid damage to fragile alpine plants. The advice from those trying to climb today was not to bother as it needs a thaw/freeze cycle. Temperature: minus 4.8 C, Maximum wind speed 33.1 mph, Wind chill: minus 15.3 C, Average wind speed: 27.3 mph

Issued at: 02:41 on Sat 08 Jan 2022

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